

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4-10, and 12, and add new claim 24, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for administering conferencing resources in a communications system, the method comprising:

transmitting from a first terminal to a conference server a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

allocating by the server a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

transmitting from the server to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address identifying the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated to the server,

wherein the communications system includes a plurality of terminals and the conference server.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 further comprising initiating connections from the first terminal and the said other terminal to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the ~~step of~~ transmitting the third message further comprises transmitting from the first terminal to at least two other terminals the third message comprising the network address; and wherein the initiating step further comprises initiating connections from the first terminal and the said other terminals to the network address to establish the conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminals.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein ~~in the first and second transmitting steps, the messages are~~ transmitting steps comprise transmitting SIP messages.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein in the ~~step of~~ transmitting from a first terminal to the server, the first message is an INVITE message.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein in the ~~step of~~ transmitting from the server to the first terminal, the second message is a redirection message.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein in the ~~step of~~ transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal, the third message is a REFER message.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in the ~~step of~~ allocating by the server, the network address is a uniform resource identifier.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein in the ~~step of~~ allocating by the server, the network address is a dynamically generated uniform resource identifier.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising merging data transmitted to the network by each of the terminals that are parties to the conference call on establishment of the conference call by the resource.

12. (Currently Amended) A conference server for administering conferencing resources, the conference server comprising:

a receiver unit configured to receive from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

an allocation unit configured to allocate a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address that identifies the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated by the server,

wherein the conference server administers conferencing resources in the communications system, wherein the communications systems includes a plurality of terminals.

13. (Original) A communications system comprising a conference server as claimed in claim 12, and a plurality of terminals including the first terminal.

14. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the first terminal is configured to transmit to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address.

15. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 14 wherein the first terminal and the said other terminal are configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminal.

16. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 15 wherein the first terminal is configured to transmit to at least two other terminals the third message comprising the network address; and wherein the first terminal and the said other terminals are configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminals.

17. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the messages are SIP messages.

18. (Original) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the first message is an INVITE message.

19. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the second message is a redirection message.

20. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the third message is a REFER message.

21. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the network address is a uniform resource identifier.

22. (Original) A communications system according to claim 21 wherein the network address is a dynamically generated uniform resource identifier.

23. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the resource is configured to merge data transmitted to the network by each of the terminals that are parties to the conference call, on establishment of the conference call.

24. (New) A conference server for administering conferencing resources, the conference server comprising:

a receiving means for receiving from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

an allocation means for allocating a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

a transmitting means for transmitting to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address that identifies the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated by the server,

wherein the conference server administers conferencing resources in a communications system, wherein the communications systems includes a plurality of terminals.